

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 BIB-01 EURE-00

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6638

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINA, PINT, PFOR, CZ, GW

SUBJECT: CZECH INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

REF: MUNICH 0227

1. RADIO FREE EUROPE(FRFE) HAS PREPARED FOLLOWING MATERIAL
FOR USE IN RESPONDING TO PRESS INQUIRIES ON MINARIK CASE.
BEGIN TEXT: PAVEL MINARIK, BORN 29 JUNE 1945 IN BRNO,
CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WAS EMPLOYED BY RADIO FREE EUROPE IN
MUNICH ON 17 DECEMBER 1968 AS AN ANNOUNCER IN CZECHOSLOVAK
BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT (CBD).

MINARIK CAME TO WEST IN 1968 FOLLOWING SOVIET-LED
INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND APPLIED FOR RFE EMPLOYMENT
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IN FALL OF 1968. ON HIS APPLICATION HE STATED HE HAD

WORKED AS A SPEAKER AND JOURNALIST FOR RADIO BRNO FROM 1964 TO 1968 AND THAT HE HAD LEFT HIS HOMELAND FOR POLITICAL REASONS. AT THE TIME OF HIS EMPLOYMENT HE WAS MARRIED TO A CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL WHOM HE LATER DIVORCED. HE IS MARRIED NOW TO A GERMAN NATIONAL WITH WHOM HE LIVED IN A MUNICH APARTMENT. IN ACCORDANCE WITH GERMAN LABOR LAW REQUIREMENTS, REGARDING SENIORITY, SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, ETC., RFE MANAGEMENT HAD INCLUDED MINARIK AMONG APPROXIMATELY 100 EMPLOYEES SCHEDULED FOR TERMINATION FOR ECONOMY REASONS IN THE SUMMER OF 1975. HOWEVER, IN SPRING OF 1975 MINARIK BECAME A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION TO THE EMPLOYEE WORKS COUNCIL GROUP, AND ALTHOUGH NOT ELECTED HE DID OBTAIN, UNDER GERMAN WORKS CONSTITUTION LAW, PROTECTION FROM TERMINATION FOR SIX MONTHS. HIS TERMINATION PROTECTION EXPIRED IN DECEMBER 1975, AND AGAIN MINARIK WAS SCHEDULED FOR TERMINATION FOR THE SAME ECONOMY REASONS. MINARIK ENTERED INTO A MUTUAL AGREEMENT WITH RFE MANAGEMENT WHEREBY HIS EMPLOYMENT WOULD END, ACCORDING TO THE RADIO'S LABOR CONTRACTS, ON 31 MARCH 1976. AS THE HOLDER OF A U.S. RE-ENTRY PERMIT, HE WAS ENTITLED TO RETURN TRANSPORTATION FOR HIMSELF AND HIS WIFE TO THE UNITED STATES. MINARIK FLEW TO THE UNITED STATES AROUND 7 JANUARY 1976 ONARED BRIEFLY IN RFE'S NEW YORK OFFICE SHORTLY THEREAFTER. HIS WIFE REMAINED IN MUNICH.

RFE IS IMPRESSED BY THE ATTENTION PAID TO IT OVER THE YEARS BY VARIOUS EASTERN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, INCLUDING TWO OFFICERS OF POLISH INTELLIGENCE CAUGHT RED-HANDED BY GERMAN AUTHORITIES IN MUNICH LATE LAST YEAR IN EFFORTS TO RECRUIT AN RFE EMPLOYEE, BUT CONSIDERS THESE ACTIVITIES SUPERFLUOUS BECAUSE RFE IS AN OPEN COMMUNICATIONS MEDIUM LIKE ANY OTHER RADIO OR NEWSPAPER IN THE WEST. ITS SO-CALLED "SECRETS" ARE ON THE AIR 19 HOURS A DAY FOR ANYONE WHO CARES TO LISTEN. ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON RFE DESIRED BY THE PRAGUE AUTHORITIES COULD HAVE BEEN OBTAINED LESS EXPENSIVELY BY PURCHASING THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD COVERING ANNUAL DEBATE IN THE CONGRESS ABOUT FUNDING RFE AND RADIO LIBERTY.

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2. RFE HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS PRESS INQUIRIES ABOUT MINARIK IN PAST SEVERAL HOURS. AMONG NEWS SERVICES SEEKING INFORMATION ARE AP, REUTER, AXEL SPRINGER, AND DPA.

3. COMMENT: RFE DID NOT RPT NOT CONSULT WITH CONGEN BEFORE PREPARING PRESS GUIDANCE IN THIS CASE.
PETERSON

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